

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a plurality of monitored device image printing devices communicatively coupled to a ~~an intranet~~ network, comprising:
periodically obtaining, by a first non-print-server monitoring computer ~~through a firewall at a monitoring site~~ using a first Internet protocol over ~~a wide area~~ the network, first device information of ~~the monitored~~ an image printing device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from ~~sensors of the~~ image printing device, and (2) a ~~device~~ identification of the image printing device;
storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained first device information into an information storage;
processing ~~the first device information and previously stored status~~ information of the plurality of image printing device devices monitored by the first monitoring computer to generate second device information that includes ~~the first device information and the stored status information~~ status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and
transmitting the second device information ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~ using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer ~~located at the intranet that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing monitored device devices; and~~
~~receiving said second device information by the second computer,~~
wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the plurality of image printing device devices, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the plurality of image printing device devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are a same Internet protocol.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are different Internet protocols.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

formatting the second device information into a format suitable for display on a web page; and

transmitting receiving a request for transmission of the second device information to
from the second computer periodically regardless of a content of the second device
information.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the first device information comprises an Internet electronic mail message, and the second device information transmitted by the first monitoring computer comprises an electronic mail message.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:
generating, by the first monitoring computer, the second device information to include summary information regarding usage of the plurality of image printing device devices,
wherein the step of transmitting the second device information from the first monitoring computer comprises transmitting, by the first monitoring computer, the second

device information that includes the information regarding usage of the plurality of image printing device devices to the second computer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the each of the~~ plurality of image printing device devices is one of a printer, a copier, a multifunction device, and a facsimile machine.

8-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a plurality of image printing monitored device devices communicatively coupled to ~~a~~ ~~an intranet~~ network, comprising:

~~means for periodically obtaining, by a first non-print-server monitoring computer through a firewall at a monitoring site configured to~~

~~(1) periodically obtain~~ using a first Internet protocol over ~~the a wide area~~ network, first device information of ~~[[the]]~~ an image printing device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from ~~sensors of the~~ image printing device, and (2) ~~a device~~ identification of the image printing device;

~~means for storing, by the first monitoring computer, (2) store~~ the obtained first device information into an information storage;

~~means for processing (3) process the first device information and previously stored status information of the plurality of image printing device devices~~ monitored by the first monitoring computer to generate second device information that includes ~~the first device information and the stored information~~ status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

~~means for transmitting (4) transmit~~ the second device information ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~ using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer ~~located at the intranet that is connected to the network of the plurality of image printing monitored device devices~~; and

~~the second computer configured to receive means for receiving~~ said second device information ~~by the second computer~~,

wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the plurality of image printing device devices, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the first device information from the plurality of image printing device devices.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring a plurality of ~~monitored image printing~~ devices communicatively coupled to ~~a an intranet~~ network, comprising:
periodically ~~accessing, through a firewall receiving~~ at a monitoring site using a first Internet protocol ~~over a wide area network, first device information of the plurality of image printing~~ devices by a service center computer that is remote from ~~said intranet network to obtain first device information of the plurality of image printing devices, wherein the first device information includes including~~ status information obtained from ~~sensors of the~~ plurality of image printing devices;

storing the obtained first device information into a storage device;
~~periodically processing information in the storage device the first device information and previously stored status information of the plurality of image printing devices monitored by the service center computer to generate a usage report for the plurality of image printing~~

devices that includes ~~the first device information and the stored information status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and~~ transmitting the usage report, ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~, using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer ~~that is connected to the located at the intranet~~ network of the ~~monitored~~ plurality of image printing devices; and ~~receiving the usage report by the second computer.~~

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the usage report from the service center computer to the second computer as an e-mail message.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the first Internet protocol and the second Internet protocol are different Internet protocols ~~transmitting step comprises:~~

~~transmitting the usage report from the service center computer to the second computer as a facsimile message.~~

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

translating the usage report into a format suitable for display on a web page; and receiving a request for transmission of the usage report from the second computer.

25. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring a plurality of ~~monitored~~ image printing devices communicatively coupled to ~~a~~ ~~an~~ internet network, comprising: ~~a service center computer means for periodically accessing, through a firewall at a monitoring site configured to~~

(1) periodically receive using a first Internet protocol ~~over a wide area network, first device information of the plurality of image printing devices by a service center computer that is remote from said intranet network to obtain, wherein the first device information of the plurality of devices, including includes~~ status information obtained from ~~sensors~~ of the plurality of image printing devices;

~~means for storing~~ (2) store the obtained first device information into a storage device;

~~means for~~ (3) periodically process processing information in the storage device ~~the first device information and previously stored status information~~ of the plurality of image printing devices monitored by the service center computer to generate a usage report for the plurality of image printing devices that includes ~~the first device information and the stored information~~ status information of each of the plurality of image printing devices; and

~~means for transmitting~~ (4) transmit the usage report, ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~ using a second Internet protocol, from the service center computer to a second computer ~~that is connected to the~~ ~~located at the~~ ~~intranet~~ network of the ~~monitored~~ ~~plurality of~~ image printing devices; and

the second computer configured to receive ~~means for receiving~~ the usage report ~~by the second computer.~~

26-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium ~~storing a program which, when executed by a first non-print-spooler monitoring computer, causes the first monitoring computer to monitor~~ ~~program product having a computer usable medium for monitoring a~~

plurality of an image handling device devices communicatively coupled to an intranet network, comprising:

instructions for periodically obtaining, by [[a]] the first monitoring computer ~~through a firewall at a monitoring site~~ using a first Internet protocol over ~~a wide area~~ the network, first device information of [[the]] an image handling device, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from ~~sensors of~~ the image handling device, and (2) ~~a~~ device identification of the image handling device;

instructions for storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained device information into an information storage;

instructions for processing, by the first monitoring computer, ~~the first device stored information of the plurality of image handling devices and previously stored status information~~ to generate second device information including status information of each of the plurality of image handling devices; and

instructions for transmitting the second device information ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~ using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer that is connected to the ~~located at the~~ intranet network of the plurality of image handling monitored device devices; and,

wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the plurality of image handling device devices, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the device information from the plurality of image handling device devices.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer ~~program product having a computer usable medium for monitoring~~ readable medium storing a program which, when executed by a first monitoring computer, causes the first monitoring computer to monitor a plurality of image handling devices communicatively coupled to ~~a~~ an intranet network, comprising:

instructions for periodically receiving ~~obtaining~~, by the first monitoring computer through a ~~firewall~~ at a monitoring site using a first Internet protocol over ~~the a wide area~~ network, first device information of the image handling devices, the first device information including (1) status information obtained from ~~sensors of the plurality of~~ image handling devices, and (2) ~~a device identification of the image handling devices~~;

instructions for storing, by the first monitoring computer, the obtained device information into a storage device;

instructions for processing, by the first monitoring computer, ~~the first device~~ information in the storage device and ~~previously stored status information~~ to generate second device information[,] that includes status information of each of the plurality of image handling devices; and

instructions for transmitting the second device information ~~at regular, periodic intervals~~ using a second Internet protocol from the first monitoring computer to a second computer that is connected to the ~~located at the~~ ~~intranet~~ network of the ~~monitored~~ plurality of image handling devices; and

~~instructions for receiving the second device information by the second computer, wherein the first monitoring computer is remote from the image handling device devices, and the first monitoring computer is the first computer to obtain the device information from the image handling devices.~~